

March 19, 1979

LB 428

General File. There are no amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 428 would allow the Department of Health at its discretion to issue a biennial license rather than an annual license. In other words, it would be up to the Department of Health on an occupation by occupation basis to determine whether to have a license as a biennial license or as an annual license. The purpose of this is to save funds and time and effort within the Department of Health so far as administrative costs are concerned as many licenses that it is felt could be issued every other year rather than every year. Obviously this saves on postage, computer time, handling of those materials and so forth. They would still have, of course, the power to revoke licenses and so forth under disciplinary problems along with the various professions. The expiration dates for certain licenses would be staggered under this particular proposal so that a certain set of licenses would expire in a certain month of a certain year and another set in a different month of another year. That enables, of course, the Department of Health to handle all this paper work in an orderly fashion. The late fee is increased from \$1 to \$5. In other words, if you submit your license application late, then they could charge you a penalty for that and that fee is increased. The term for all the members of the Board of Examiners for all the various Boards of Examiners would be increased from three years, which is the current level, to five years, and then the terms would be limited to two five year terms. One of the problems that they have right now with all of the various licensing boards is that they get on there, they take a year or so to understand what they are doing, two years, perhaps, and then they have a productive year and they are off the Board. So it was felt these longer terms allows them to learn what is happening in the profession and stay there long enough to actually do something. So I think that that is a constructive change. The bill also changes some fees for licensure by examination, for medicine and surgery, from \$100 to \$150; from pharmacy, from \$65 to \$100; and funeral directing would be established at \$30. It also says that reciprocal licenses for medicine and surgery is set at \$100, as is now the case, but the Department could raise the fee if necessary as far as reciprocal fees are concerned. It basically is a cleanup bill. I think the increased fees and so forth are necessary because they do operate on a cash fund basis and it is important that these fees be generated so they do not have to dip into the